

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 03144 040825Z

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /075 W

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R 040756Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5425

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR PINT CH TW US

SUBJECT: ROC RESPONSE TO TENG HSIAO-PING

REF: PEKING 1056 (NOTAL)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. ON JUNE 3 LI CHANG-HAO, MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SPOKESMAN, RESPONDED TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT TENG HSIAO-PING ALLEGEDLY TOLD THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS GROUP THAT THE PRC "WILL PROBABLY USE FORCE" TO REGAIN TAIWAN. BOTH THE UPI REPORT ON TENG'S REMARKS AND A CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY REPORT OF LI'S REPLY WERE CARRIED IN ALL PAPERS.

2. CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRIED THE FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF THE UPI STORY REPORTING TENG'S REFERENCE TO THE USE OF FORCE AND TO THE FACT THAT THE PRC WILL WELCOME PRESIDENT
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 03144 040825Z

FORD'S VISIT LATER THIS YEAR BUT THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE

MUCH BUSINESS TRANSACTED. THE LOW CIRCULATION ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS CARRIED A FULLER VERSION OF THE UPI STORY.

3. CHINESE LANGUAGE PAPERS CARRIED A XIEF CNA ITEM REPORTING LI SAID THE PRC HAD MADE SIMILAR THREATS BEFORE AND WAS REPEATING IT TO HIDE ITS OWN INTERNAL CRISIS. HE ADDED THAT THE ROC HAS THE CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION TO REPEL ANY PRC ATTACK.

4. THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS GAVE A FULLER ACCOUNT OF LI'S STATEMENT WHICH WE ASSUME WAS AIMED AT THE FOREIGN AUDIENCE. THE NEWS QUOTED LI AS SAYING, "TO USE FORCE AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA REQUIRES STRENGTH, POLITICAL AS WELL AS MILITARY. THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS DON'T HAVE THAT STRENGTH....

THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POPULATION (OF TAIWAN) ARE UNITED AS ONE IN THEIR RESOLVE TO RESIST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION. WE ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF REPELLING A COMMUNIST INVASION ATTEMPT FROM ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT." THE CHINESE NEWS ALSO QUOTED A "SEASONED DIPLOMATIC OBSERVER" AS SAYING TENG'S THREAT WAS PRIMARILY FOR AMERICAN CONSUMPTION. "BY THREATENING THE USE OF FORCE TO CONQUER FREE CHINA, TENG APPARENTLY HOPES TO PERSUADE THE US TO QUIT TAIWAN BEFORE GETTING ITSELF INVOLVED IN A MILITARY CONFLICT."

POPPL

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